

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-25 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, 19, and 21-25 are independent. In the Office Action dated October 27, 2004, the specification was objected to, Claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and Claims 15-18, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 15-18 were objected to, but were deemed allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and Claims 1-14 and 19-23 were allowed. Following this response, Claims 1-25 remain in this application. Applicant hereby addresses the Examiner's objections and rejections in turn.

I. Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action dated October 27, 2004, the Examiner objected to the specification due to missing status information of a co-pending application. The specification has been amended to add the requisite status information, correct the titles to match the applications as filed, and to address typographical errors. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes this objection and adds no new matter.

II. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 15-18, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out

and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 15, 24, and 25 have been amended, and Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes this rejection of Claims 15-18, 24, and 25 and adds no new matter. Support for this amendment can be found at least in the specification in paragraphs 42 through 48.

III. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,732,134 ("*Rosenberg*"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding Claim 24, the Examiner stated that *Rosenberg* discloses an apparatus that performs scaling as a function of a floating point number's determined format. (See Office Action, page 2, lines 13-15.) In response, Applicant asserts that *Rosenberg* does not support the Examiner's rejection. For example, *Rosenberg* discloses a process for determining a reciprocal of a value. (See col. 7 lines 46-47.) *Rosenberg's* process calculates a value's reciprocal in four different ways depending upon the value's exponent and whether the value is less than a lower limit. (See FIG. 3.) For example, if the exponent is zero and the value is less than a lower limit, the reciprocal is set to infinity. (See col. 7 lines 54-56; FIG. 3, stage 24.) If the exponent is zero and the value is not less than a lower limit, *Rosenberg's* process performs some shifting in calculating the reciprocal. (See col. 7 line 66-col. 8, line 4; FIG. 3, stages 34, 36, and 38.) If the exponent is not greater than 125, *Rosenberg's* process calculates the reciprocal by dividing 1 by the value. (See col. 8 lines 4-7; FIG. 3, stage 40.) And, if the exponent is

greater than 125, *Rosenberg*'s process scales the value in calculating the reciprocal. (See col. 7 line 61-65; FIG. 3, stages 28, 30, and 32.) Accordingly, *Rosenberg* does not perform scaling as a function of a determined format, rather *Rosenberg* calculates a value's reciprocal in several ways depending upon the value of the exposure. Indeed, *Rosenberg* does not determine a floating point number's format at all.

In light of the above remarks, Applicant asserts that the rejection of Claim 24 is not supported by the cited art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Applicant asserts that the rejection of Claim 25 is also not supported by the cited art and should be withdrawn for the reasons outlined above in response to the rejection of Claim 24.

IV. Allowance of Claims

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass Claims 1-14 and 19-23 to issue as the Examiner has previously indicated these claims are allowable.

V. Conclusion

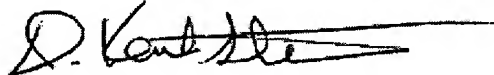
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the

preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.



Dated: January 27, 2005

By: _____

D. Kent Stier
Reg. No. 50,640
(404) 653-6559